

Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons —

Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes

ICS 03.120.20

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National foreword

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the ISO/IEC title page, pages ii to iv, pages 1 to 15 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

This Published Document, having been prepared under the direction of the Management Systems Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 April 1999

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ISBN 0 580 32242 4

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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GUIDE 43-1

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**Part 1:
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Second edition 1997

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Descriptors: Certification, quality assurance systems, laboratory accreditation, laboratories, testing laboratories, estimation, performance.

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

ISO/IEC Guide 43-1 was prepared by ISO/CASCO Ad Hoc Group for Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 43. A draft was circulated to CASCO members and IEC National Committees for comments. A final draft has subsequently been approved by ISO/CASCO and by IEC Council for publication as an ISO/IEC Guide.

Parts 1 and 2 of ISO/IEC Guide 43 cancel and replace the first edition (ISO/IEC Guide 43:1984).

ISO/IEC Guide 43:1984 covered guidance on development and operation of laboratory proficiency testing with limited emphasis on the use of the outcomes of proficiency testing by accreditation bodies. It is now intended to provide guidance in three areas, namely:

- a) to distinguish between use of interlaboratory comparisons for proficiency testing and for other purposes;
- b) the development and operation of interlaboratory comparisons for use in proficiency testing schemes; and
- c) the selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies.

ISO/IEC Guide 43 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons*:

- *Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes;*
- *Part 2: Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies.*

Annexes to this part of ISO/IEC Guide 43 provide statistical guidance on treatment of data from proficiency testing schemes and guidelines on documentation (Quality Manual) for the operation of proficiency testing schemes.

